

**ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, May 26, 1994
6:15 pm

Board Room
390 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

M I N U T E S

PRESENT: Jose Acevedo, Carlos Alma, Hector Bonilla, Gene Calderon, Margaret Rosario Rivera, George Santiago, Jr., Jose Valentin, Noemi Velazquez

ABSENT: Mercedes Del Valle Rana, Mirva Rivera

STAFF: Roberto Del Rios, Angela Corbo

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:15 pm by George Santiago who was authorized to chair the meeting until Margaret Rosario Rivera arrived.

II. WAIVER OF NOTICE

All board members present indicated that they were duly notified of the meeting.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Angela Corbo gave the Office of Development report. She provided a progress report which included proposals submitted, letters of support, prepared testimony and a brief discussion of a new ASPIRA initiative.

Roberto Del Rios then reviewed the fiscal report. He informed the Board that Grace Merez will be promoted to Accountant. A part-time bookkeeper will be hired to assist her in the Fiscal Office.

Mr. Del Rios then reported on agency activities, upcoming events and community initiatives:

- . April 29 - Statewide Youth Conference was held, approximately 225 students in attendance.
- . April 30 - Meeting with Hispanic CBO Directors in Camden.
- . May 1 - Family Day
- . May 6 - Paterson Open House
- . May 16 - Legislative Day in Trenton sponsored by the Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey
- . May 17 - Testimony before the New Jersey Joint Appropriations Committee.
- . May 24 - Meeting with State Senator Ronald Rice
- . May 26 - Health seminar at Luis Munoz Marin.
- . May 28 - Anti-drug march - Camden

- . June 2 - Taping of cable show.
- . June 3 - ASPIRA Annual Awards Night at Rider College.
- . June 3 - Reception for Dr. Eric Munoz at Campino's Restaurant in honor of his election to chair of the Puerto Rican Coalition.
- . June 8 - 10 - Health Seminar at 390 Broad Street.
- . June 8 - Park Clean-Up of Park #9 in Jersey City by Public Policy students as part of community service.
- . June 11 - 8th Annual Parent Conference sponsored by Newark Board of Education at UMDNJ
- . June 11 - Anti-Drug March - Newark
- . August 31 - Pennies for the Homeless- conducted by the ASPIRA Club from Ferris High School in Jersey City.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Celeste Hernandez reported that there were some logistical problems with the Youth Conference. She also stated that students discussed the possibility of a social hour after the annual awards night ceremony on June 3. She concluded her report by informing the board that Student Advisory Board elections will take place next week.

Margaret Rosario Rivera suggested that ASPIRA re-visit and re-evaluate the way in which we plan the Youth Conference, Awards Night, Career Fairs, etc. to determine how we can insure that these activities are more effective. She stated that the key to successful activities is planning! Discussion ensued concerning staff coordinating schedules with school calendar and exploring collaborative programming with colleges in the area.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jose Valentin made a motion to approve the minutes with spelling and other corrections. Gene Calderon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Margaret Rosario Rivera presented the following information items to the Board:

. The meeting she attended on April 30 with the Hispanic CBO Directors in Camden was a very productive one. She will recommend that future meetings are scheduled.

. She will be meeting with Grazielle Kaplan, 1st Fidelity Bank, on Wed., May 25 to discuss Ms. Kaplan's interest in the ASPIRA Committee of Sponsors.

. She spoke with Rafael Rivera, WCBS, regarding David Diaz' participation on the Committee of Sponsors. She will follow-up with a letter to him.

. She will be attending ASPIRA of Chicago's 25th Anniversary celebration at which time the Jose Matos Scholarship Fund will be publicly announced.

. ASPIRA was represented by Margaret Rosario Rivera, Noemi Velazquez and Gene Calderon at the inaugural affair for Dr. Carlos Hernandez.

She announced that George Santiago, Jr. needs the support and input of the Latino Males Conference committee members in order to produce an Executive Summary Report. She requested that the committee meet before the June Board meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Development Committee Report was presented by Gene Calderon. Angela Corbo distributed an Alumni Questionnaire to board members and asked for any comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc. before it is mailed to alumni for completion.

The Programs Committee Report was presented by George Santiago, Jr. He stated that he has not received any information from the Latino Males Conference committee. However, he will schedule a meeting with participants before the next board meeting, per Chair's request.

With respect to the assessment of Jersey City and Paterson, George is waiting for data. As soon as it is received he will review and organize it.

Carlos Alma presented The Personnel Committee Report. He stated that revised by-laws will be presented at the Annual Retreat. These by-laws will be mailed to board members prior to the retreat for their review. He also reported that the Personnel Manual will be amended to reflect OSHA regulations, smoke-free, drug-free environment, sexual harassment, code-of-conduct, disciplinary actions and grievances. Margaret Rosario Rivera suggested that Personnel Committee consider the issue of tuition reimbursement for qualified staff.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Margaret Rosario Rivera discussed board membership. She said that board members were requested to actively recruit potential board members. Noemi Velazquez has two applications out, Carlos Alma has one possibility, and Margaret Rosario Rivera has contacted four individuals. Both Jose Valentin and Jose Acevedo have some individuals in mind. Ms. Rosario Rivera asked that completed applications be returned to her within the next two weeks.

Carlos Alma made a motion to close the ASPIRA Capital Campaign Fund and transfer money in this fund to the ASPIRA Endowment Foundation. Gene Calderon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Noemi Velazquez reported that the New Jersey legislators are meeting on June 1, 1994 at Jersey City State College from 3:00 - 6:00 pm regarding NJAC 6:31 Bi-Lingual Education Code. Ms. Velazquez asked board members to attend this very important meeting which will be held in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Room. The changes being

proposed concern, among other things, dismantling the Bureau of Bilingual Education and the issue of parental consent. She also informed the Board that a public testimony is slated for June 15 in Trenton.

Margaret Rosario Rivera reminded the Board that an election of officers will be held at the June board meeting. She stated that all Board members are expected to attend. The positions of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairs of the three standing committees will be voted on. If any board members are interested in the available offices, please inform Margaret Rosario Rivera.

Board absenteeism is currently being reviewed. However, since the absentee policy was adopted when the board was not meeting as often as it is now, the absentee policy no longer reflects the current number of meetings. Carlos Alma made a motion to increase the absence acceptance level by one effective January 1, 1994. Jose Valentin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Margaret Rosario Rivera announced that she will be the commencement speaker at Passaic Community College. She will speak on the topic of "Achievement through Service and Education".

Jose Acevedo announced that he is on the Puerto Rican Action Council in Passaic County. ASPIRA will be the screening mechanism for scholarship money for this council.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Carlos Alma made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jose Valentin seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned approximately 8:50 pm.

NOTICE: THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994 AT 6:00 PM